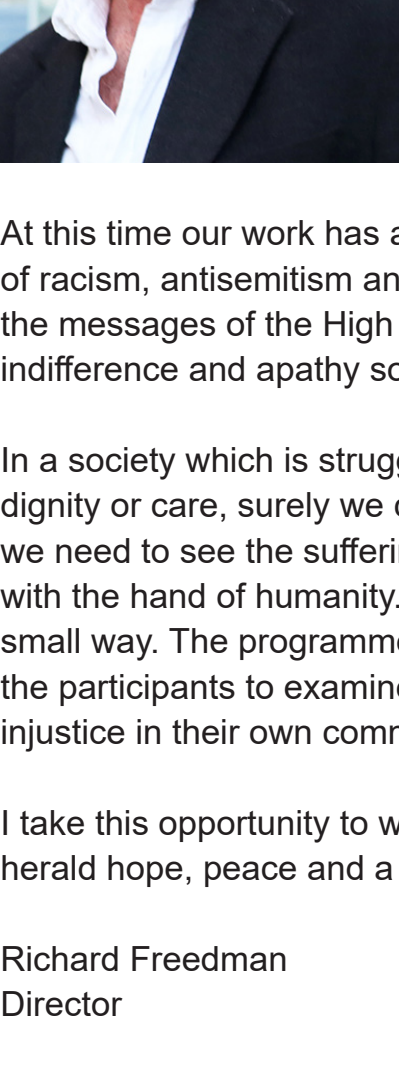


Cape Town Holocaust Centre | Newsletter September 2017 | Rosh Hashanah Edition



Dear Reader,

It is humbling to read about the extraordinary work being done by the team at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. There is so much commitment and dedication from our staff. This Newsletter is a tribute to them and the incredible support we receive from our many volunteers, supporters and partners both locally and internationally.

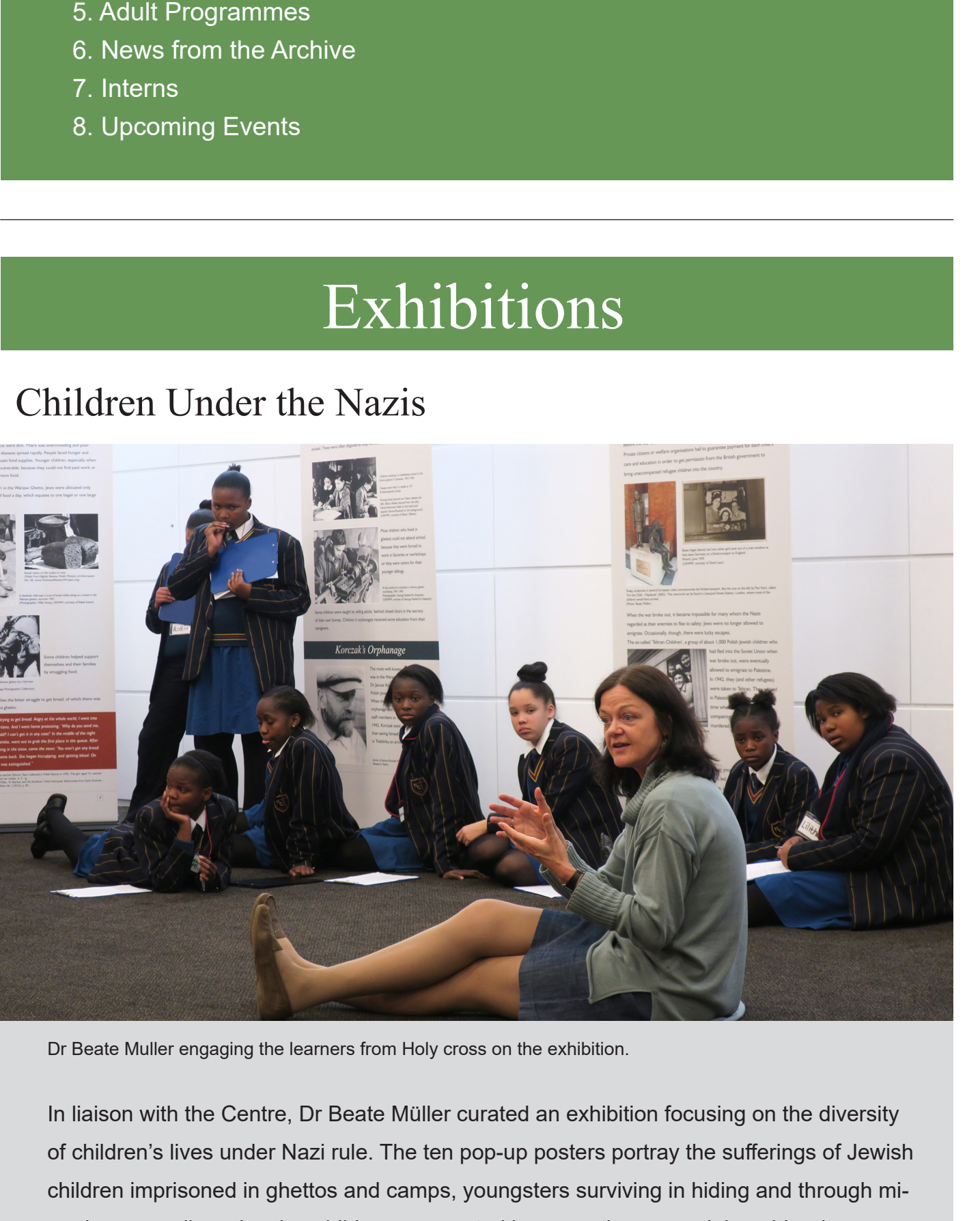
The support of our colleagues in Durban and Johannesburg and our benefactors, who consistently demonstrate through their generosity, recognition and support for the work being done.

At this time our work has assumed a great urgency as we watch with dismay the wave of racism, antisemitism and hatred that is sweeping the world. Perhaps as we reflect on the messages of the High Holidays, we should bear in mind the devastating impact of indifference and apathy so manifest during the Holocaust.

In a society which is struggling with poverty and inequality and where many live without dignity or care, surely we cannot turn away. For those of us who are in a position to help, we need to see the suffering of the individual and step out of our comfort zone to reach out with the hand of humanity. In so doing, we would be changing the world for the better in a small way. The programmes at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre are designed to prompt the participants to examine their own sense of agency; recognising their ability to address injustice in their own community.

I take this opportunity to wishing our Jewish readers a Shana Tova. May the new year herald hope, peace and a strengthening of the spirit of human kindness.

Richard Freedman
Director



Please Note: The Cape Town Holocaust Centre will be closed on the upcoming Jewish holidays in September and October, with early closing times on each Erev Chag.

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Exhibitions

Children Under the Nazis



Dr Beate Muller engaging the learners from Holy cross on the exhibition.

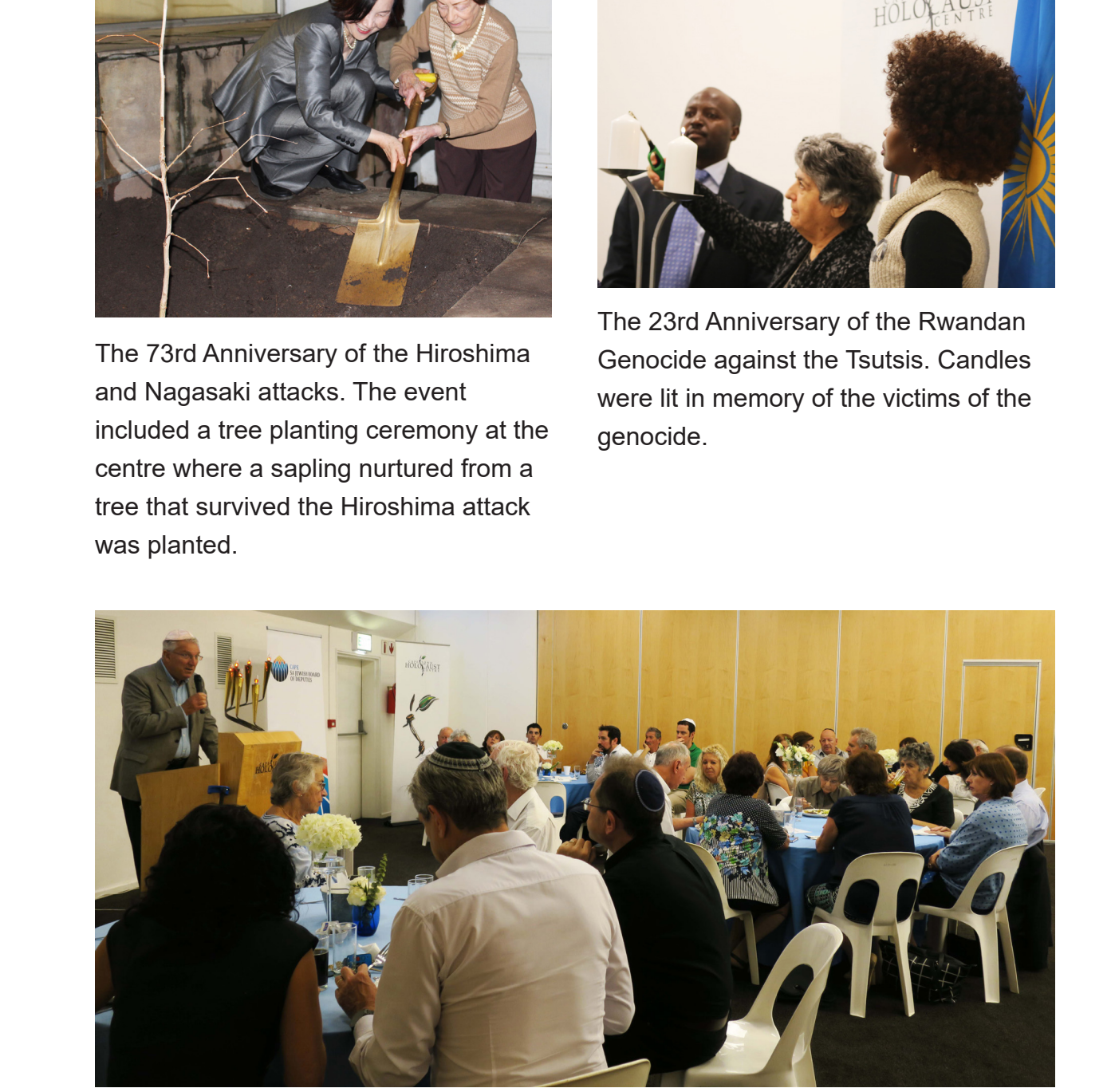
In liaison with the Centre, Dr Beate Müller curated an exhibition focusing on the diversity of children's lives under Nazi rule. The ten pop-up posters portray the sufferings of Jewish children imprisoned in ghettos and camps, youngsters surviving in hiding and through migration, as well as showing children persecuted because they were Jehovah's witnesses or Sinti, alongside non-Jewish German children who were indoctrinated in the Hitler Youth, fought as child soldiers in Hitler's army, or were evacuated to escape Allied air raids. The exhibition was used as part of the educational programme for visiting schoolchildren allowing them to learn about children's lives under the Nazis and is available as a travelling exhibition to schools.



The Atomic Bomb & Human Rights

This exhibition was made available in partnership with the Centre for Japanese Studies, University of Pretoria. It has comprehensive information on the history, construction, and effects of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The exhibition included the story of a young girl named Sadako Sasaki who folded paper cranes before she died of leukemia as well as other children who were victims of the atomic bomb. Ultimately, this exhibition is meant to inspire peace in 21st century.

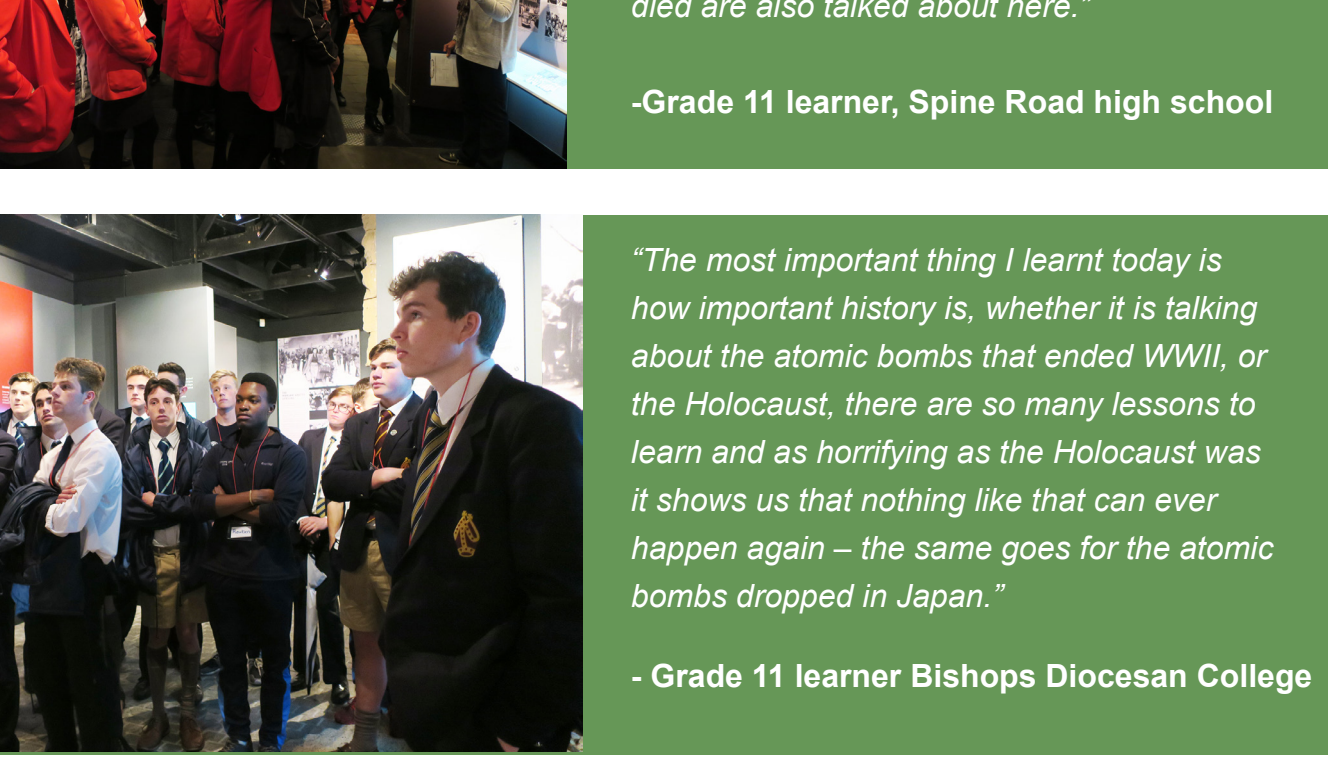
White Rose Art & Writing Project



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre, in partnership with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, had the pleasure of hosting an exhibition and awards evening for the high school learners and their teachers who participated in the annual White Rose Art & Writing Project. Learners were asked to respond to the theme 'Recognising and Resisting Injustice' through essay writing, poetry, song, and a variety of artistic mediums.

The evening began with an opportunity to view the impressive artwork on display, followed by a performance by English singer and songwriter Reg Meuroos. All learners received certificates of participation and prizes were awarded for winning art and writing entries. Our sincere thanks to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, to our wonderful judges and to the learners (and their teachers) who participated.

A CALENDAR FULL OF EVENTS



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I have a name. Film screening and demonstration with director Dr. Robin Ruizendaal.



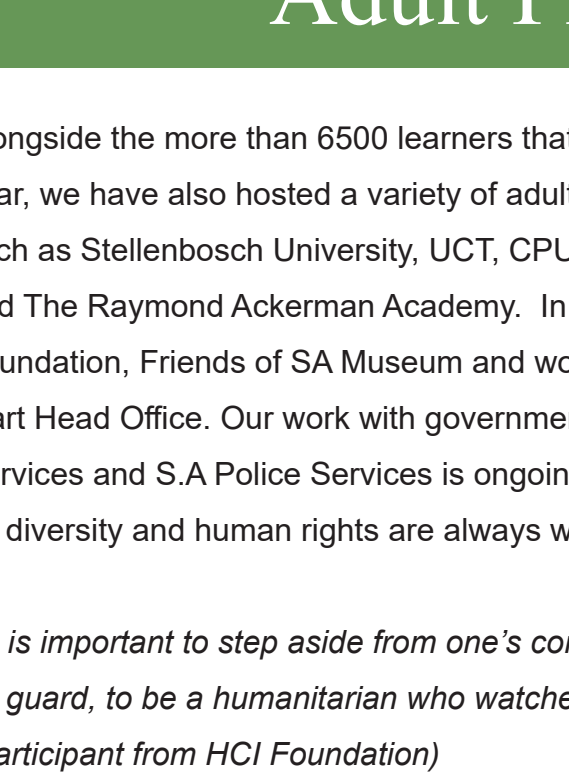
The Khmer Rouge Rice Fields: A story of Survival. Public screening and discussion by Tiang Kim Sat and Savina Sink from Cambodia.



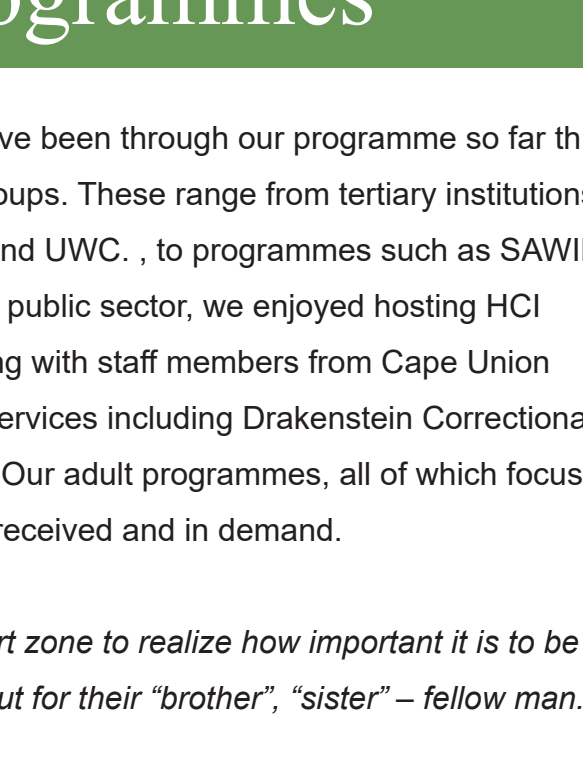
Hannah Arendt film screening in partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library and Goethe Institute.



East West Street: On the Origins of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. Book launch and discussion with Prof. Philippe Sands, QC.



Singing the Songs of Zion: 150 years of Synagogue Music in the Cape at the Garden Shul with over 500 people in attendance. The event featured Cantors Choni Goldman and Ivor Joffe with their respective congregation choirs.



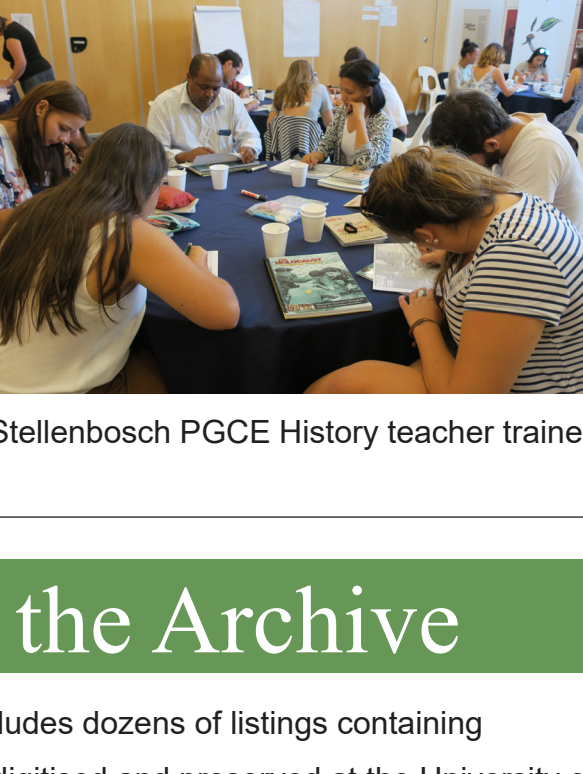
The opening reception of the 'Out of the Shadows' festival at the CTHC. The performance included 'A comedy of us Jews'; produced by Aviva Pelham and featuring Mathew Reid on clarinet.

For more event photos, visit our Facebook page our Facebook page.

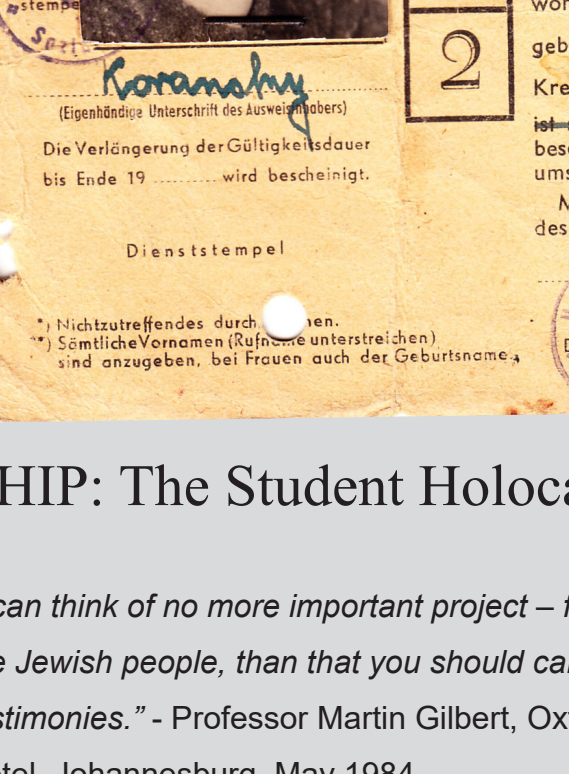
Commemorations



The 73rd Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks. The event included a tree planting ceremony at the centre where a sapling nurtured from a tree that survived the Hiroshima attack was planted.



The 23rd Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsis. Candles were lit in memory of the victims of the genocide.



Yom HaShoah luncheon hosted by the CTHC and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Council) for the survivors and their families.

Educational Programmes

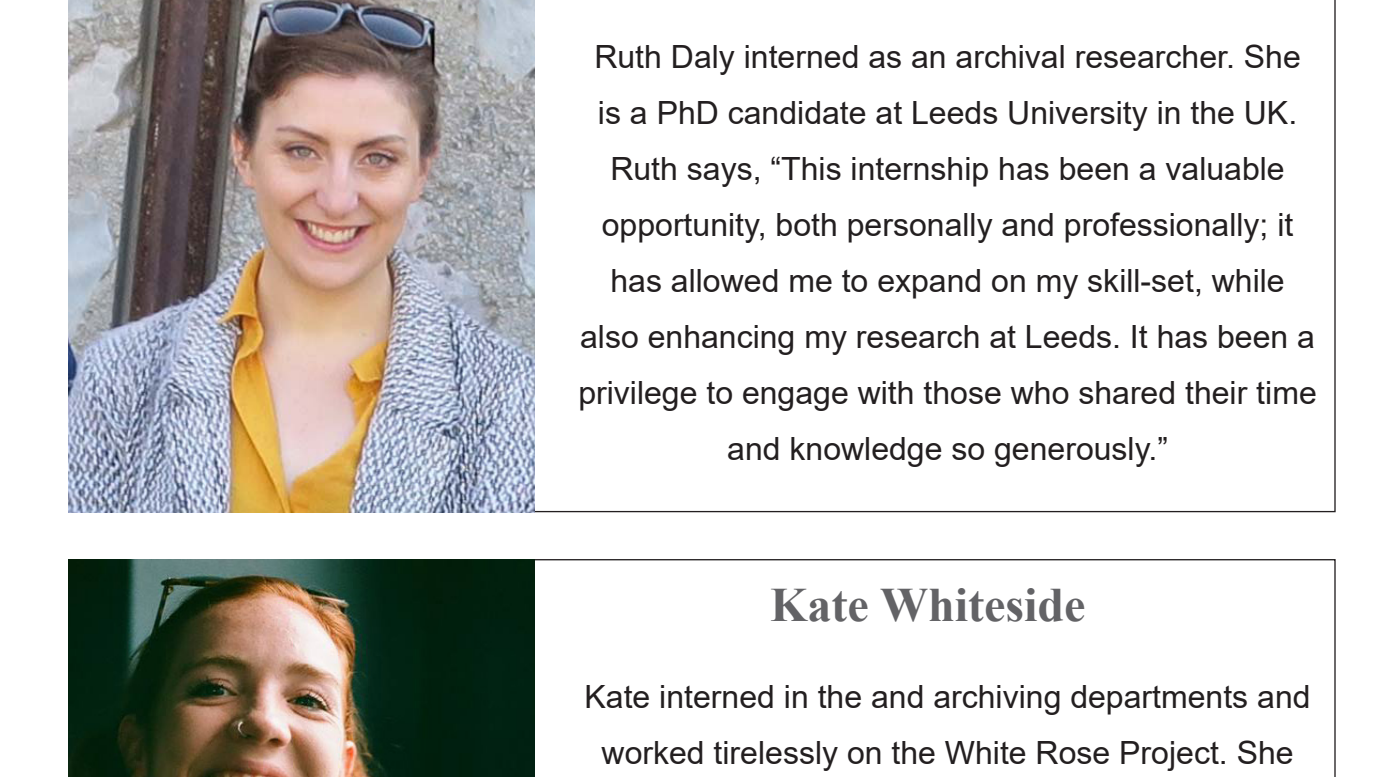
The education team continues to run a full programme for high school learners from the greater Cape Town area. Over 107 schools and over 6500 learners have visited the Centre since the start of 2017, and the feedback from both learners and educators has shown how impactful and inspiring these visits have been.

View more photos from our programmes on our Facebook page.

"Stories from the Holocaust are always difficult to connect to reality. Horrors and tragedies become prosaic and impersonal when put into textbook form. Hearing a survivor's story first hand makes it easier to understand and empathise with the ordinary people whose lives were devastated by the Holocaust. I was greatly moved by Ella's tale. Although her story is upsetting, it is also uplifting to hear how even in the darkest times, the human spirit and will to live can triumph."

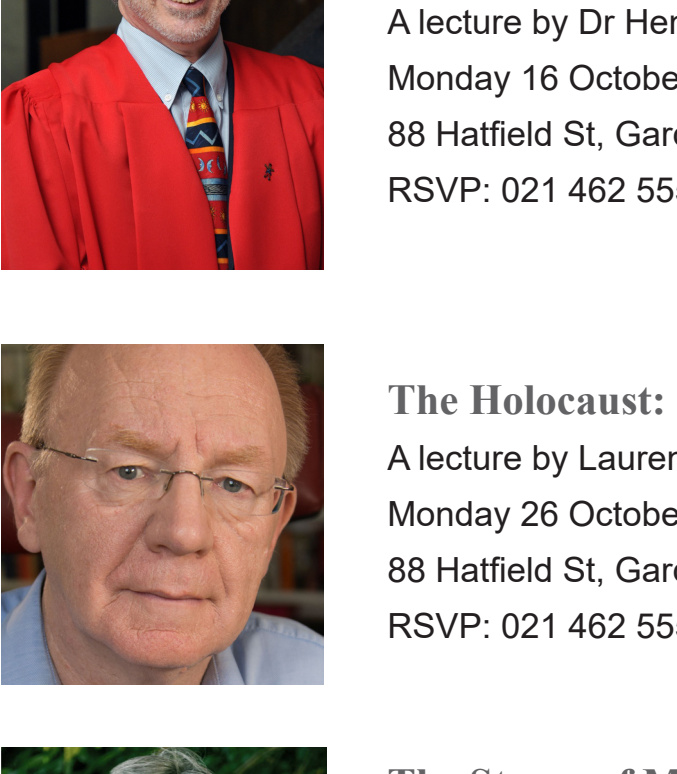
-Grade 9 learner, Camps Bay High School

Ella Blumenthal with students from Camps Bay High School, Grade 9



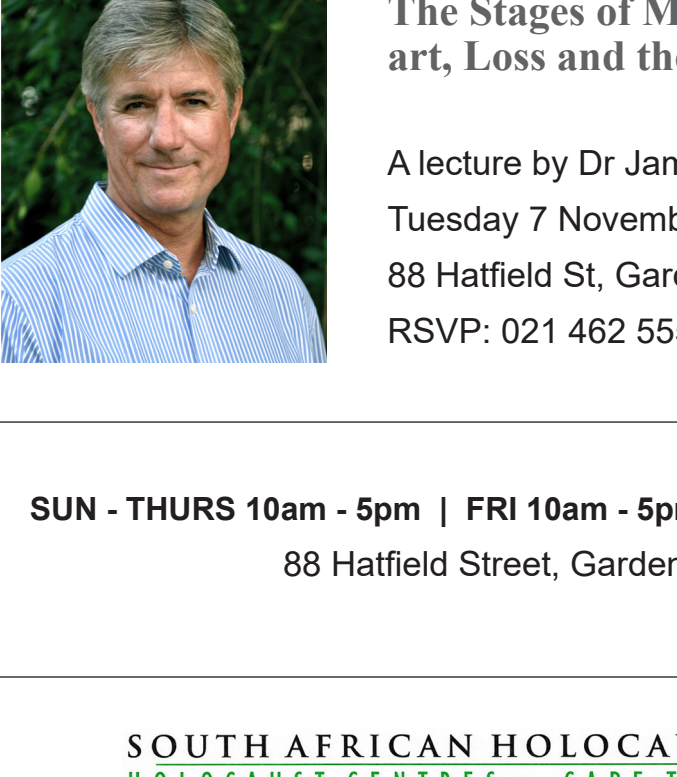
"It was surprised that the information displayed here is not only on the Holocaust genocide, but also on other genocides and discriminations. And that those non-Jews that died are also talked about here."

-Grade 11 learner, Spine Road high school



"The most important thing I learnt today is how important history is, whether it is talking about the atomic bombs that ended WWII, or the Holocaust, there are so many lessons to learn and as horrifying as the Holocaust was it shows us that nothing like that can ever happen again – the same goes for the atomic bombs dropped in Japan."

- Grade 11 learner Bishops Diocesan College



"It has been a great experience because we got additional information even though we still have questions ...it feels good to know about world's history. Being here makes me feel so good and my guide made sure that we understood what he was saying."

- Grade 9 learner Hopolang High School

Holiday Programme for JG Meiring High School

Lesley Cushman, a member of our education team, conducted a holiday programme over 3 days with Grade 11 learners at the JG Meiring High School in Goodwood. A central focus was on the role of pseudo-scientific theories of race in Nazi-occupied Europe, Australia and South Africa. The complexities of Social Darwinism, Eugenics, and the application of these in the advancement of racial agendas in oppressive regimes were unpacked. Learners engaged with a variety of activities: group brainstorming, discussion and synthesis of materials; film clip viewing; powerpoint presentation; pair discussion and presentation. Learners also interacted with Beate Muller's exhibition: Children Living Under the Nazis. Here are a selection of comments from their evaluation of the programme:

- At first you could ask me to explain Social Darwinism and Eugenics and I couldn't...I can confidently now say, I can take on any question.
- I learnt that the children suffered very badly. The Nazi laws really impacted the children clearly by their living conditions, what they ate, and their education.
- ...racial discrimination never ends in a good way.
- ...most of them died, but the rest came back stronger than ever to fight back.

A learner at the holiday program taking notes during a classroom session.

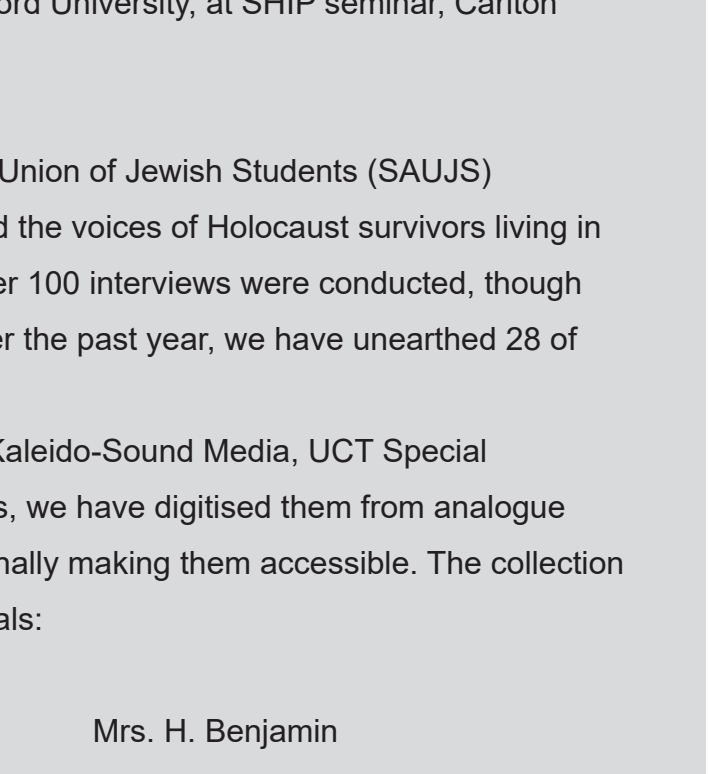


Iziko South African Museum

UWC Law students



Raymond Ackerman Academy

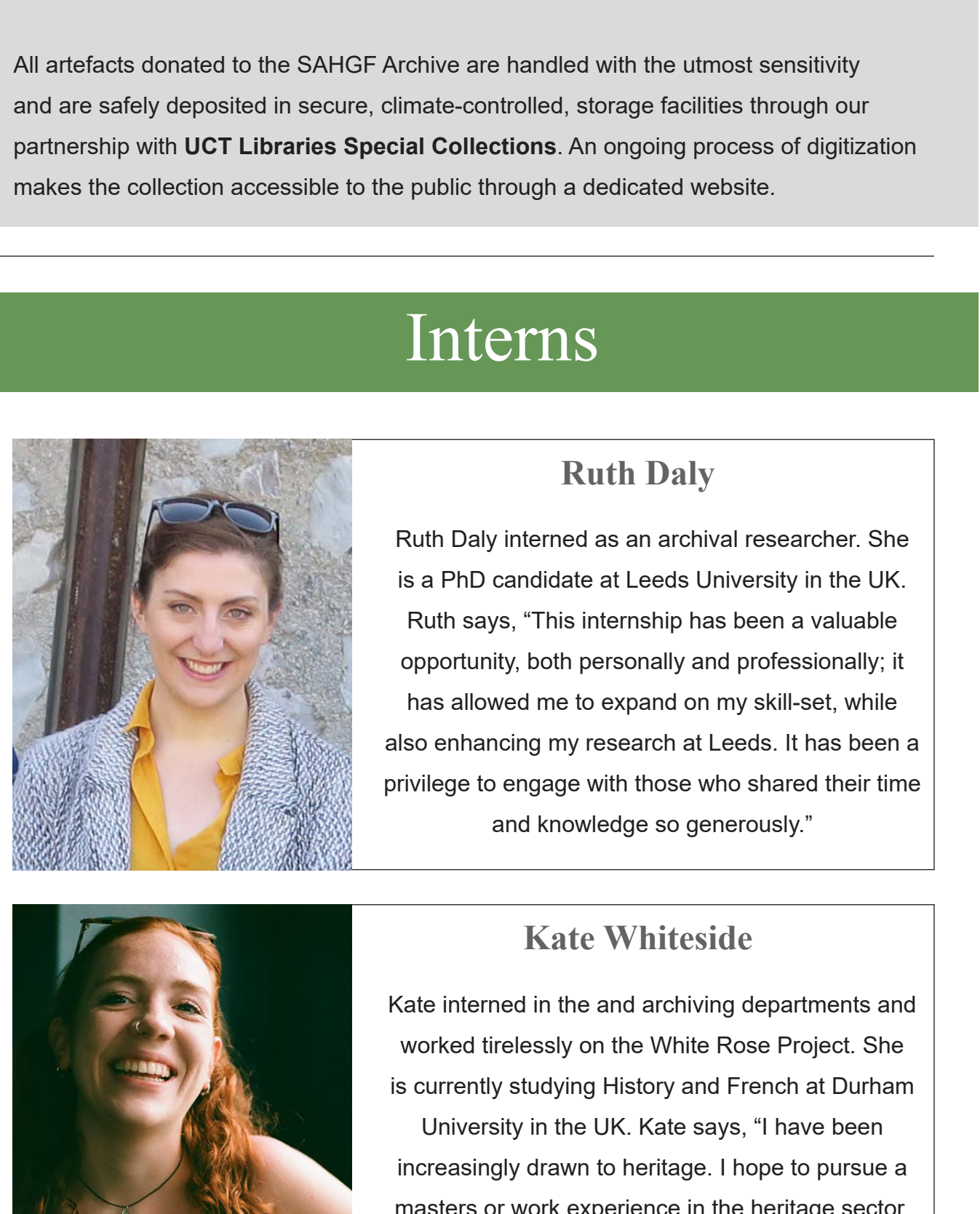


Stellenbosch PGCE History teacher trainees

News from the Archive

Our catalogue is now available online. This includes dozens of listings containing thousands of Holocaust-related artefacts now digitised and preserved at the University of Cape Town's Special Collections Library.

Please visit the new catalogue at <http://atom.lib.uct.ac.za/index.php/za-uct-bc1556-a>



SHIP: The Student Holocaust Interviewing Project

"I can think of no more important project – for history, for future generations, and for the Jewish people, than that you should carry out your aim of recording Holocaust testimonies." - Professor Martin Gilbert, Oxford University, at SHIP seminar, Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, May 1984

Between 1981 and 1987, the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) coordinated an interviewing project to record the voices of Holocaust survivors living in South Africa. SAUJS records reveal that over 100 interviews were conducted, though their whereabouts are mostly unknown. Over the past year, we have unearthed 28 of these audio recordings.

Through our partnerships with SOS Films, Kaleido-Sound Media, UCT Special Collections and UCT Digital Library Services, we have digitised them from analogue cassette, and transcribed them verbatim - finally making them accessible. The collection includes testimony for the following individuals:

Maja Abramowitch	Lucia Amato	Mrs. H. Benjamin
Michael Breslin	Mathilda Capelluto	Joseph Coné
Menno de Jong	Helene Mathilde	Louise de Jong
Judy Diamant	Violetta Fintz	Diamante Franco
Freda Glezer	Irene Groll	Mrs. H. Joles
Martha Klus	Elizabeth Koransky	Gabriella Koves
Mrs. J. Linsen	Mr. Markman	Xavier Platka
Mindi Soffer	Klara van Kleef	Asher Varon
Unidentified (initials I.W., Kooverberg)		Shalom Nadas
Maria Pefanos	Margarite Rachel Mentz	
Mariam Roth		

The SHIP collection stands as an unprecedented addendum to the incredible efforts taken in recent decades to record survivor testimonies in South Africa. The 1995 book 'In Sacred Memory: recollections of the Holocaust by survivors living in Cape Town', edited by Gwynne Robins, provides concise first-hand accounts of survivors who settled in Cape Town. Since the Cape Town Holocaust Centre was established in 1999, dozens more interviews have been recorded around the country.

The SAHGF Archive is an ongoing national project funded by the Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Education, Research and Documentation through the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

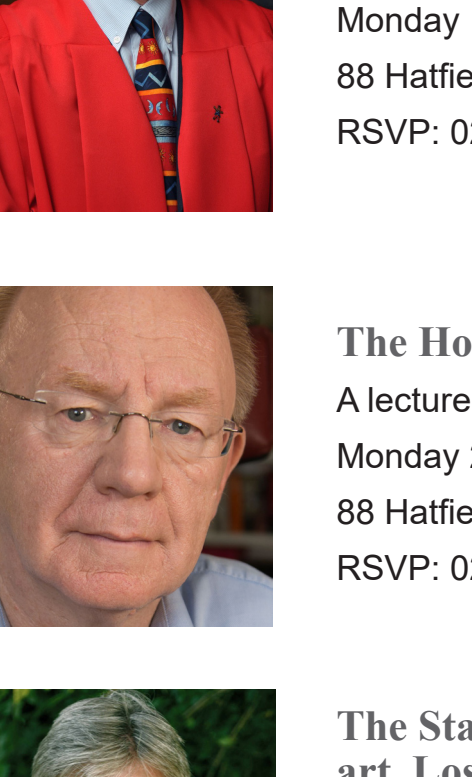
If you are interested in donating material to the SAHGF Archive, or viewing our collections, please contact us at 021 462 5553 or email michal@holocaust.org.za.

'In Sacred Memory' is available at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre for R80

If you have any information regarding the SAUJS SHIP project, please contact the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

All artefacts donated to the SAHGF Archive are handled with the utmost sensitivity and are safely deposited in secure, climate-controlled, storage facilities through our partnership with **UCT Libraries Special Collections**. An ongoing process of digitization makes the collection accessible to the public through a dedicated website.

Interns



Ruth Daly

Ruth Daly interned as an archival researcher. She is a PhD candidate at Leeds University in the UK. Ruth says, "This internship has been a valuable opportunity, both personally and professionally; it has allowed me to expand on my skill-set, while also enhancing my research at Leeds. It has been a privilege to engage with those who shared their time and knowledge so generously."



Kate Whiteside

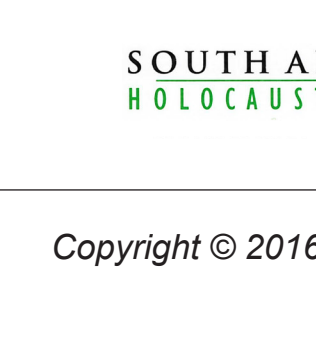
Kate interned in the and archiving departments and worked tirelessly on the White Rose Project. She is currently studying History and French at Durham University in the UK. Kate says, "I have been increasingly drawn to heritage. I hope to pursue a masters or work experience in the heritage sector, with a particular focus on the role heritage plays in the remembrance of violent pasts"

Upcoming Events



Revisiting the German Genocide in South west Africa (1904-1908) On the On the context and consequences of colonial mass violence.

A lecture by Dr Henning Meibler
Monday 16 October, 6pm
88 Hatfield St, Gardens
RSVP: 021 462 5553 or email admin@holocaust.org.za.



The Holocaust: Meeting those who were there.

A lecture by Laurence Rees
Monday 26 October, 6pm
88 Hatfield St, Gardens
RSVP: 021 462 5553 or email admin@holocaust.org.za.

The Stages of Memory: Reflections on memorial art, Loss and the spaces between.

A lecture by Dr James Young
Tuesday 7 November, 6pm
88 Hatfield St, Gardens
RSVP: 021 462 5553 or email admin@holocaust.org.za.